



Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Location: Remote participation via Zoom

Minutes

Members in attendance: Scott Lever, Greg Christiana, Juli Brazile, Marisa Lau, Alex Bagnall, Jagat Adhiya, Caroline Murray, Michael Brownstein

Other attendees: Rebecca Gruber, Elizabeth Dray, Johanna Meyer, Kelly Lynema, Len Diggins

1. Introductions

Introductions all around, including Marisa who's joining us a new member of the Planning Department. Johanna is joining us from the Reservoir Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes

No minutes approved this month.

3. Task Group Updates

Johanna gave updates on the Reservoir Committee.

There was no harvesting of water chestnuts because of the renovation, which was controversial. Many invasive plants and trees were removed, an ADA compliant perimeter path has been added, there's a new fence for the shade garden. Volunteers have come from Girl and Boy Scouts, Peace Corps, and Recreation Department to assist with various projects, including a trash clean up day. Edible plant groups helped clear garlic mustard. There have been lots of visitors and there are more options for them now. The path is nearly done; working now on the beach area and pavilion. The playground is nearly done and can open in the spring; all the upgrades should be done in time for swim season. The parking lot is curing (permeable surface). Scott asked if they needed funds from Envision Arlington to support their work. We helped in the past by sharing printing costs for the brochures.

Rebecca gave an update on DTG. Jeff Chunglo, Arlington Director of Veterans' Services, gave a presentation. Karen Kelleher from the Housing Plan Implementation Committee and member of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board also spoke. Going forward, there will be more discussions about housing, inviting additional speakers.

Greg gave an update on CEG. Starting with the December meeting the focus has been on the Town Survey, and will remain focused on the survey until it closes. Greg and Bill Berkowitz have focused on drafting of questions related to community

engagement. With the survey text finalizing soon, the group's focus will be on survey outreach.

Michael gave an update on the Police Civilian Advisory Board Study Group (PCABS). He will bring language for the upcoming warrant to a future meeting. The draft was nearly unanimously approved. Chief Flaherty and Town Counsel Doug Heim were very helpful in the insights they offered. Elizabeth asked about whether the proposed advisory board would have investigatory powers. Michael suggests referring to the Town Warrant.

Scott gave an update on Education. They're starting the visioning process in April, with strong backing of the Superintendent. Scott worked on the RFP that will hire the facilitator of the community engagement portion of the process.

4. Town Survey

We had a lot of discussion and active editing of survey questions. There was some overlap among questions in the community engagement section. Greg and Rebecca will continue to iterate on community engagement questions offline, likely with Bill Berkowitz who has been actively involved in the drafting of these questions. In particular, more work needs to be done to de-duplicate the first and last questions with options. Elizabeth asked how the answers to the questions about topics and venues will be used. Greg explained that CEG will use the answers to identify where residents are currently engaging with the community, and what topics most interest them, in order to guide CEG's outreach efforts. Rebecca points out that it can also tell us where there may be opportunities to improve or increase engagement in some areas.

There was much discussion about questions in the DEI section, especially the question about "biggest challenges ... facing the town."

Discussion continued with the Education section. Rebecca asked about adding an option for parents/guardians of students not in the Arlington Public Schools. Scott explained that the questions in this section are tailored to APS, and would require much more space to accommodate schools more broadly.

5. Broadway Design Process

We ran out of time to discuss this item, so we will revisit next month, and in the meantime at the CEG meeting on January 31.

6. New Business

Elizabeth asked Scott whether he would consider reading the land acknowledgement at the introduction of our meetings. Greg made a motion to recite the land acknowledgement at the start of Standing Committee monthly meetings. Vote passed unanimously.

Elizabeth asked when results from last year's Annual Town Survey would be made public. Kelly explained that the report is nearing completion, and a final draft will be reviewed by Planning Director (Jenny Raitt) and Town Manager (Adam

Chapdelaine) for final review. Also, Kelly explained that the report for the 2021 Town Survey is still in the process of being finalized, as it has been delayed due to the pandemic.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.